

**73rd Annual AFMS Board of Directors Meeting
Held Virtually Via Zoom
October 17, 2020**

President David Wayment called the meeting to order.

J.C. Moore, 4th Vice President, gave the invocation.

David led the Pledge of Allegiance.

David noted that the memorials were included with the regional federation reports. Any additions should be e-mailed to Secretary Donna Moore and Central Office Cheryl Neary.

David greeted everyone who was attending online and said a lot of good work was coming from Zoom meetings. We may continue to use Zoom, especially for committee meetings, etc., between annual meetings. These are very unusual times, but we are doing the best we can.

Parliamentarian Steve Weinberger noted that before we approve the agenda, a reminder that only officers and directors may vote. They are the only ones who may speak. Anyone else wishing to speak must receive permission from his/her regional vice president. He asked that everyone else mute unless expecting to speak. Cheryl Neary, 2nd Vice President, moved to accept the agenda as presented in the packet. Jerrold Simpson, 3rd Vice President, seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a roll call vote.

J.C. Moore moved to accept the 2019 minutes of the AFMS Board of Directors Meeting as printed in the packet. Cheryl Neary seconded the motion, which passed by roll call vote.

David recognized the AFMS Past Presidents who were “in attendance”: Doug True, Sandy Fuller, Matt Charsky, Richard Jaeger, Steve Weinberger, and Ron Carman.

Officers Reports:

President David Wayment had a report in the packet.

President-Elect Judy Beck had a report in the packet.

1st Regional Vice President Jim Brace-Thompson had a report in the packet.

2nd Regional Vice President Cheryl Neary had a report in the packet and addendum.

3rd Regional Vice President Jerrold Simpson had a report in the addendum.

4th Regional Vice President J.C. Moore had a report in the packet.

5th Regional Vice President Jim Bosley had a report in the packet.

Secretary Donna Moore had a report in the packet.

Treasurer Pat LaRue had a report in the packet.

David called for reports from the directors:

California Federation President Marcia Goetz had a report in the packet.

California Federation Vice President Juanita Pardum had no report, but added she was not aware of anyone who had passed away.

Eastern Federation President David Nock reported his report was in progress. Their convention was to be held the following weekend. He expressed the thought that reports don't need to be done in time before the meeting because they are still working on the information in the future.

Eastern Federation Vice President Ellery Borow had a report in the packet.

Midwest Federation President John Donker had no report. Catherine Clevenz, MWF 2nd Vice President, was attending the meeting for him.

Midwest Federation Vice President Susan Stanforth had a report in the packet.

Northwest Federation President Kenneth Zahn had just sent a report. He added that their show and convention had to be cancelled in April. It was set for the Golden Spike club, in Odgen, Utah, but their venue cancelled. They tried some other locations, but had the same problem. Their federation has two new clubs, two had dropped. They had two good awardees selected for the scholarships. They were looking for a place to host their convention in 2021.

Northwest Federation Vice President Beth Heesacker had nothing to add.

Rocky Mountain Federation President Bob Regner had no report. He said he was working on one. The Rocky Mountain was able to hold their convention. It was a great convention.

Rocky Mountain Federation Vice President Sheri Johnson said their convention was well done. She was looking forward to having an in person convention next year.

President Wayment interjected that he was disappointed that he did not get to travel to each convention this year. President Elect Judy Beck assured him he could go with her.

South Central Federation President Roger Burford had no report and was not present.

South Central Federation Vice President Jerrold Simpson could only have one place on the board. He had no substitute. He noted that their convention was cancelled and they had no Zoom meeting. They are still planning to host the AFMS in 2022.

Southeast Federation President Jesse Griffin said they were focusing on distance by Zoom. He thanked the Eastern Federation for helping them. One club that decided to have

a show offered to host the convention, but they declined because of their aging population and the virus.

Southeast Federation Vice President Melissa Hill Rader had nothing to add.

Committee Chairmen Reports

All American Awards – Regina Kapta had a report in the packet. She added that she is stepping down as chairman. Her replacement is Mary Boesdorfer from the LOESS Club in Springfield, Illinois. They are crafting a pandemic aspect to the contest because so many clubs had to cancel their shows and meetings. They were considering virtual aspects, Facebook chats, virtual tours, etc. She said to watch for the information to be posted on the AFMS Website and for articles in the AFMS Newsletter.

AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year – Judi Allison said this is a free, great way to recognize those people in our clubs who do so much. More clubs need to use it. This is a good way to recognize unsung heroes. She said it was very simple and doesn't cost a penny. She urged members to nominate those who don't get notoriety.

President Wayment noted that people don't know about some of the websites and programs that are offered. He has been trying to get information disseminated better.

AFMS Newsletter – Sue Webb had a report in the packet.

Audit and Review – Pat LaRue had a report from the CPA who did the audit.

Boundaries – Bob Carlson reported that, "Happily, there is nothing to report. No boundary issues have been raised in 2020."

Bulletin Editor's Hall of Fame – Shirley Leeson had no report, but had sent a list of recipients to be announced during the awards presentations later. Judy Beck said Shirley had asked to continue as chairman of the committee. She is in assisted living, but is alert and doing pretty well.

Bylaws Revisory – Steve Weinberger had a report in the packet. He announced no changes had been proposed.

Central Office – Cheryl Neary had a report in the packet and addendum. She replied to David Nock that we need a deadline so we can get packets to share information.

Commemorative Stamps – the chairman for several years, Wendell Mohr, had passed away so the position is open.

Conservation and Legislation – John Martin had a written report in the packet.

Endowment Fund – Cheryl Neary had a report in the packet.

Financial Investment – Wayne Cox had a report in the packet.

Historian – Jennifer Haley had a report in the packet.

Inter-Regional Field Trips – Doug True had a report in the packet. He added there would be a field trip in May 2021 to the Blue Forest to dig fish fossils. Watch for information in the newsletters.

Judges Training Seminar – Margaret Kolaczyk had a report in the packet. She had stepped down from the chairmanship. David was hoping to talk her into reconsidering.

Junior Programs – Jim Brace-Thompson had a report in the packet. He added that for many years the Summit Lapidary Club in Ohio had sponsored a poster contest for juniors. They had stopped doing this. Michelle Cauley from North Lakes Academy Rockhounds in Minnesota would like to re-instate this. He suggested we might do a trial basis then if it is successful, have a proposal at the next meeting.

Long Range Planning – Doug True had a report in the packet.

Name Badges – Frank Mullaney had nothing to report.

Nominating Committee – Doug True had a report in the packet listing the 2021 nominees to be voted on under new business.

President – Judy Beck, Rocky Mountain Federation

President-Elect – Jim Brace-Thompson, California Federation

1st Regional Vice President – Matt Charsky, Eastern Federation

2nd Regional Vice President – Roger Buford, South Central Federation

3rd Regional Vice President – David Rich, Midwest Federation

4th Regional Vice President – Jim Bosely, Northwest Federation

5th Regional Vice President – Steve Heneger, Southeast Federation

Past Presidents Advisory – Doug True had nothing to report

Photography – John Martin had a report in the packet.

Program Competition – Darrel Watkins had a report in the addendum. Two programs had been submitted. Results would be announced at the awards presentation. He expressed the need to have access to the Endowment Fund interest earmarked for the programs.

Public & International Relations – Bob Jones had no report.

Publication – B. Jay Bowman had no report.

Safety – Ellery Borow had a written report.

Scholarship Foundation – Sandie Fender had a written report with the agenda for the meeting to follow the AFMS Director’s Meeting.

Show Consultant – Emerson Tucker had a report, which was included in the addendum.

Uniform Rules – Leslie Wayment reported that the committee held a meeting the previous evening. There were no proposals for changes to the rules, so the present rules stand for another year. The Rocky Mountain Federation becomes the next chairman of the committee since they host the next convention. She asked them to let us know who the chairman will be.

Uniform Rules Eligibility Files – Josie Middleton had a written report. Her form for reporting competitive exhibits has been placed on the AFMS Website.

Ways and Means – Richard Jaeger reported no activity,

Website/Webmaster – Marty Hart had a report in the packet.

Website Contest – Don Shultz had a report in the packet. Winners would be announced later at the awards presentations. Certificates will be mailed out. He offered thanks to Jeff Ursillo for judging.

Unfinished Business –
None reported.

New Business

Budget – Judy Beck noted that the proposed budget was in the packet. It was very hard to do a budget this year with so many cancellations of conventions, shows, meetings, etc. She actually used the 2018-19 budget for the future budget. The AFMS always finishes on balance.

J.C. Moore, 4th Vice President moved to accept the budget as presented. Cheryl Neary, 2nd Vice President seconded the motion. Past President Matt Charsky, with Cheryl Neary’s permission asked why the endowment fund amount went from \$6,500 down to \$1,000. Cheryl noted that there was very little money turned in from ticket sales, the main fundraiser, this year because shows and conventions were cancelled. Judy had lowered the amount because there was not that much interest to support the amount normally budgeted. Pat LaRue said that the endowment fund funded the judges training workshop, which had not been held for the last couple or three years, there was no travel expense this year since the convention was virtual, no patches for juniors had been ordered, no program expenses were incurred. She recommended putting the endowment fund amount back to \$6,500 in anticipation of these expenses occurring in 2021.

Judy Beck noted we needed an addendum to increase the amount in the endowment fund portion of the budget. President Wayment suggested we bump it back up to \$6,500

now, and if not all used this year, it will still be there. He and Pat LaRue both suggested bumping the amount back up to \$6,500.

J.C. Moore restated his motion to move that the budget as amended re-establishing \$6,500 for the Endowment Fund be approved. Cheryl Neary who had seconded the motion, agreed.

A roll call vote was taken on the amended motion, which carried unanimously.

Election of Officers

David Wayment read the list of nominees as presented by the nominating committee chaired by Doug True, immediate past president. J.C. Moore moved to accept the list as presented. Jesse Griffin, Southeast Federation President, seconded the motion. A roll call vote passed unanimously.

Waving or Reducing Membership Dues

Cheryl Neary had proposed in the addendum to the agenda and packet for the meeting that the AFMS consider waving the AFMS Dues. Some federations were considering waving fees because members could not attend shows, conventions were not held, etc. David Nock reported that the Eastern Federation were waving the Eastern Federation portion of their fees, noting many clubs had already waved local dues for 2021. Cheryl noted that the AFMS membership fee is 75cents per member. This would amount to \$40,000 if waived, which would be a huge reduction to the income if we waived the total amount. Pat LaRue said this is the AFMS's sole source of income. She hopefully anticipates we will return to normal expenses in 2021.

J.C. Moore, 4th Vice President, representing the Midwest Federation, reported they had decided to cut the local federation portion in half, but planned to pay the AFMS dues. 25 cents of the AFMS Dues is already being paid by interest from the MWF Endowment Fund for all members.

Discussion continued with points being brought up to poll the other federations to see what they planned as far as dues, would lowering then again immediately the next year raising the AFMS portion of dues be confusing to the clubs, we could possibly use some of the endowment fund interest, but there were other things that might need to come out of that. It was suggested that the matter should die for lack of a motion after a long discussion. Then Juanita Pardun, California Federation Vice President, moved to determine who is interested in reducing or eliminating the fee for this next year. Jesse Griffin, Southeast Federation President, seconded her motion. In discussion the proposal of a special meeting to discuss this was suggested. Juanita said if we are interested then we needed to decide by how much. Ken Zahn said the Northwest Federation would probably prefer to leave the AFMS portion as it is, and do any reduction from their federation portion.

After a rather lengthy discussion with no apparent consensus, Juanita, with Jesse's approval retracted the motion. The understanding would be that the incoming president could decide if this needed further consideration.

Status of Commemorative Stamps

The chairman, Wendell Mohr, had passed away in the past year or so. He had headed up the effort to lobby the U.S. Postal Service to offer rock, mineral or earth science

stamps. Parliamentarian Steve Weinberger clarified that since this is a special committee it just doesn't have to operate, but should not be eliminated. It has been several years (maybe 20) since there have been any rock, mineral or gem stamps. Jim Brace-Thompson noted there had been a great effort maybe 15 years ago to get people to lobby for mineral stamps. He had gotten the junior members involved in the process. Ellery Borow noted that he was a stamp collector. The post office gets a lot of money for the stamps that are not used. He would like to see the effort pursued. He considered it a worthy effort because people still use stamps.

President Wayment noted that some collectors spend a lot of money just collecting, not using stamps. He offered the chairmanship of the committee to Ellery, who accepted. Jim Brace-Thompson offered to assist Ellery. He thought it would be a good project for the kids.

Combining/Reducing the AFMS Committees

Jim Brace-Thompson noted there are 34 different committees. After looking over the committees, he decided there are some that might be combined, but he is not putting forth a proposal because most of the committees are working. He took the idea off the table.

Long Range Planning - Geology 365

Judy Beck introduced Doug True, chairman of the long range planning committee. They had been investigating website development, re-imagining what we would like to see. Doug noted that Marty Hart is now on the committee.

David Nock, president of the Eastern Federation had noticed that Geology 365, a website that was creating a lot of attention was possibly doing things that were not legitimate such as listing club information, logos, etc. The ad hoc committee of the long range planning committee met to investigate this as well as looking at the AFMS Website which they perceived as outdated and slow. They suggested it needs to be reworked, but on the advise of several knowledgeable people think it would be easier to rebuild the whole site. Doug said they are just in the beginning stages of discussion, and maybe nothing should be done at all. They were now discussing with Marty Hart, AFMS Webmaster, about working it out.

The portion of the proposal concerning juniors, was looking at combining with 4-H. One club had done this and 4-H paid the insurance, they also wanted to coordinate with Diamond Dan, and upgrading the junior stage.

Doug noted that all their meetings had been recorded. They were now asking for funds to start on the website. Steve Weinberger, with Cheryl Neary's permission, asked if we allocate funds, will the committee come back to the board for permission before implementing their plans. One suggestion was to hold a special meeting to approve funds after more specifics were brought forth. Doug said nothing should be done without approval. Matt Charsky, with Cheryl Neary's permission, noted that there were three separate proposals under one project with three parts. He said we had always brought forth one project per proposal. He noted there were all kinds of questions raised with this proposal, which was very weak. It is not good to ask for large amounts of money (\$35,000) when money is not available. Each proposal should be presented separately. We need to wait until we know what is going on.

Janice Kowalski, with Cheryl Neary's permission, said there are a lot of resources in the Eastern and American Federations that might take part for a different or reduced sum. This leaves the AFMS in a bad spot. We need to look at other places for bids.

Matt Charsky said this kind of expenditure makes no sense when we are talking of reducing dues. Doug True said maybe we want to wait, get more information together and then go for funds. He was just trying to help the AFMS.

David Wayment explained this is three sub committees of an ad hoc committee of the Long Range Planning Committee. Judy Beck, Jim Brace-Thompson and David Wayment were sitting in on all three sub committees to establish continuity.

Cheryl reminded the group that only the interest from the endowment fund can be spent. David asked Sandy Fuller, past president, about her inquiry of money available to be used. She had asked, but no specific answers were provided. She asked if money was allocated and not spent, what was done with it? Did it go back to principle? Resources are needed without having to wait another year. They will need to come back in April with 3 proposals. They had started with one idea that evolved into three ideas. They wanted our web resources to be usable to the regions and clubs.

Jim Brace-Thompson said that after sitting in on a few meetings, he had three points to mention:

1. These are good committed people with good ideas.
2. Most of the ideas are good, he questioned some of the others. Judy and Jim being on the committees as upcoming presidents was good for continuity.
3. He is also uncomfortable at the brevity of the proposal, especially on the financial part. We need more details, especially on the money. He would like to see more details. He hoped to work with the committee for future approval.

Doug True said they should table the funds request for now. Let Judy Beck call a special meeting or move on to the next meeting when more details are available. Judy noted that the next AFMS meeting is scheduled for April, which isn't that far away. By that time they can have more specific proposals that can be brought up. They hope to make the AFMS more relevant to the clubs.

Steve Weinberger questioned the operation software mentioned in the Geology 365 proposal. He asked who the private entrepreneur was. David Nock said it was a member of the Eastern Federation from New Jersey, but would not name him. Steve asked if he is already absorbing our clubs, shouldn't we know who he is. David Wayment said only two clubs are participating in his venture at this time - his own club and the club in Billings, Montana, in order to critique his club management system. There is a collection site and a club management site. The collection portion lets people put a few of their specimens with information on the site. The club management site deals with field trips, club information, membership, etc. Right now the gentleman is doing this as a tribute to his father, but how long will he continue it and keep it updated. Now the club management portion is free. The collection site allows selling of specimens. Only a certain number can be listed then for a few dollars, more space is allowed. David Nock suggested that people go online and learn about the site at Geology365.org.

With further discussion concern arose about the club management portion of the site. All the clubs in the US are already listed with their logos without the permission of

the clubs. There was concern that we need to do something. This was seen as a warning call that we either need to work with this person or ask him to stop listing our club information without permission. There was much concern about tracking of members. There was concern expressed about the legal liabilities involved and who would manage the information, which some clubs are already refusing to give out.

President Wayment said we have had quite a bit of discussion. He recommended that we table the discussion until the next meeting in April when more research and more input will be presented.

Upcoming AFMS Meetings and Conventions

The 2021 AFMS Convention is scheduled for April 21-25, 2021, in South Jordan, Utah. The club is still planning to hold the show and convention. Information will be e-mailed to the board, covered in the newsletter, and posted on the website as it is made available.

Announcements –

Jim Brace-Thompson said he has a good relationship with *Rock and Gem* magazine. The new general manager wants to support rock clubs in whatever ways possible. They are interested in providing a special trophy for the bulletin editors contest and would like to publish some of the winning articles. They are doing a survey of the current demographics of rockhounds and would like to work with the AFMS on a broader scope. The managing editor, Toni Rahn, wants to help us (AFMS) whenever with whatever they can. Jim Brace-Thompson has been working with her (He writes for the magazine.), and will keep us updated.

J.C. Moore, 4th Vice President, moved to adjourn the meeting. Bob Regner, Rocky Mountain Federation President, seconded the motion. David Wayment declared the meeting adjourned.

